small scale sector were shown the working of the products displayed in the Exhibition and technical discussions were held between the Scientists of the R&D Institutes, NRDC officers and parties|entrepreneurs interested in commercialising the technology involved in the products displayed. The purpose of the Seminar-cum-Exhibition being licensing/commercialisation of technologies, it did not involve any recommendations being made to Government.

Uniform adoption code for adopting children

*437. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council for Child Welfare has demanded uniform adoption code to regulate intercountry and inter-State adoption of children;

(b) whether Government agree to the demands registered by the Indian Council of Child Welfare; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An adoption of Children Bill was introduced in Parliament in the year 1972 and also in the year 1980. But in view of vehement opposition from certain minority communities the proposals were dropped. It has been the declared policy of the Government that no changes in the personnel laws of a minority community would be made unless the initiative therefor comes from the community itself and there is an ascertainable consensus of the community for such a change.

Visit of the Foreign Minister of Algeria to India

*438. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Minister of Algeria visited India sometime during the month of January, 1988;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit; and

(c) what are the results of the discussions held with him; and the extent to which the results are in the interest of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Algerian Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi paid an official visit to India from January 25—29, 1988.

(b(and (c) The visit provided a useful opportunity for consultation and an exchange of views on bilateral and internationals issues of mutual interest.

It was agreed during the visit that Indo-Algerian Joint Commission will meet shortly to discuss bilateral economic and commercial matters.

Foodgrains output by the end of the VII Plan

@*439. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to ensure an output of 175 million tonnes of foodgrains by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan.

@Previously Starred Question 359, transferred from the 18th March, 1988.

(b) if so, what new steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to mobilize the peasantry in this endeavour?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) A Task Force under the Member Incharge, Agriculture, Planning Commission has formulated a Framework Action Plan for achieving foodgrains production level of atleast 175 million tonnes by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan. The Framework Action Plan adopts a selective approach for districts having potential for higher production which can be realised in the short period. Thus, a total of 169 districts in 14 States are to be taken up in respect of the Five Foodgrain crops of rice, wheat, maize, gram and arher. The strategy frame of the Action Plan envisages the identification of production constraints operating in the selected districts and the measures required to remove them. Detailed district-wise Action Plan are to be framed by the State Governments to be operationalised from kharif, 1988. At the Central level nodal responsibility for implementing the Framework Action Plan would be with the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Committee had already submitted its report and it was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers on 18th March, 1988. As regards mobilising the peasantry, it may be stated that no Action Plan for increasing agricultural production can succeed without active participation of the farmers.

Maintenance of Health records of workers of Indian Rare Earths Limited

*440. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commitee headed by Dr. M. S. Valiathan, recommended that proper health records of all workers of the Indian Rare Earths Limited be maintained; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether health records of workers have not been kept so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) A committee which included Dr. M. S. Valiathan, Director Shri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science, to examine the alleged radiation hazards in Kerala with regard to Indian Rare Earth's (IRE) factory at Alwaye has observed that "In order to permit comprehensive medical review of the health status of the industrial workers, good medical record keeping together with individual occupational radiation exposures should be made mandatory and annual medical audit/reviews should be conducted and records maintained".

(b) and (c) In the IRE factory Alwaye, medical records as suggested by the Committee were not maintained till October 1985 when the workers were covered under Employees State Insurance Scheme. Consequent to the exemption of the workmen of IRE Alwaye, from ESIS and introduction of the comprehensive health scheme, and appointment of a full time Medical Officer, health records